

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHORIZING A RESTRICTED CALLABLE
STATUS IN AN INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM**

10 A method, an apparatus, a system, and a computer
program product are presented for managing availability
status values in an instant messaging application. A
user of the instant messaging application is able to
select a "do not disturb" status that is to be associated
15 with the user, thereby preventing most users from being
able to initiate an instant messaging session with the
user. In addition, the user of the instant messaging
application can selectively authorize a subset of users
to have the privilege of being able to start instant
20 messaging sessions with the user while maintaining an
indication to all other users that the user is in a "do
not disturb" status.